

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 90 (canceled)

1 Claim 91 (Previously presented) An isolated
2 polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid
3 sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

1 Claim 92 (Previously presented) A vector comprising the
2 isolated polynucleotide of claim 91.

1 Claim 93 (Previously presented) A bacterium of the genus
2 Corynebacterium comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 91.

1 Claim 94 (Previously presented) The bacterium of claim
2 93, wherein said bacterium is one of the species Corynebacterium
3 glutamicum.

1 Claim 95 (Previously presented) A bacterium of the
2 species Escherichia coli or Corynebacterium glutamicum comprising
3 the vector of claim 92.

1 Claim 96 (Previously presented) An isolated
2 polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides
3 165 to 3587 of SEQ ID NO:1.

1 Claim 97 (Previously presented) A vector comprising the
2 isolated polynucleotide of claim 96.

1 Claim 98 (Previously presented) A bacterium of the genus
2 Corynebacterium comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 96.

1 Claim 99 (Previously presented) The bacterium of claim
2 98, wherein said bacterium is one of the species Corynebacterium
3 glutamicum.

1 Claim 100 (Previously presented) A bacterium of the
2 species Escherichia coli or Corynebacterium glutamicum comprising
3 the vector of claim 97.

1 Claim 101 (Previously presented) An isolated
2 polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

1 Claim 102 (Previously presented) A vector comprising the
2 isolated polynucleotide of claim 101.

1 Claim 103 (Previously presented) A bacterium of the
2 genus Corynebacterium comprising the isolated polynucleotide of
3 claim 101.

1 Claim 104 (Previously presented) The bacterium of claim
2 103, wherein said bacterium is one of the species *Corynebacterium*
3 *glutamicum*.

1 Claim 105 (Previously presented) A bacterium of the
2 species *Escherichia coli* or *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising
3 the vector of claim 102.

1 Claim 106 (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide
2 having pyruvate carboxylase enzymatic activity comprising the amino
3 acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

1 Claim 107 (Currently amended) A pVWEX1pyc vector
2 contained in the bacterium deposited under DSM 12893.

1 Claim 108 (Previously presented) A bacterium comprising
2 the vector of claim 107.

Claim 109 (Canceled)

1 Claim 110 (currently amended) A method of microbial
2 production of amino acids of the aspartate and glutamate family
3 strains in a culture medium, by microorganisms, whereby said
4 microorganisms are transformed by an isolated polynucleotide
5 ~~encoding pyruvate carboxylase comprising a sequence selected from~~
6 ~~the group consisting of:~~

7 ~~_____ a) a polynucleotide encoding a pyruvate carboxylase~~
8 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; ~~and~~
9 ~~_____ b) a polynucleotide encoding the pyruvate carboxylase~~
10 ~~polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the clone~~
11 ~~contained in the bacterium deposited under DSM 12893,~~
12 wherein said [[.]] pyruvate carboxylase is expressed with increased
13 copy numbers compared to an untransformed ~~the starting~~
14 microorganism and producing said amino acids.

1 Claim 111 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 110, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group
3 consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-glutamate and
4 L-arginine.

1 Claim 112 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 110, wherein the microorganism strains are selected from the
3 group consisting of Corynebacterium, Escherichia coli, and Serratia
4 marcescens.

1 Claim 113 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 110, wherein increasing the copy number is achieved by
3 transforming said microorganisms with a vector comprising the
4 isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino
5 acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

1 Claim 114 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 113, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the
3 nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 165 to 3587 of SEQ ID NO:1.

1 Claim 115 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 113, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the
3 nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

1 Claim 116 (currently amended) A method of microbial
2 production of L-lysine in a culture medium, by a strain of
3 *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, whereby said strain is transformed by
4 an isolated polynucleotide ~~encoding pyruvate carboxylase comprising~~
5 ~~a sequence selected from the group consisting of~~
6 ~~_____ a) a polynucleotide encoding a pyruvate carboxylase~~
7 ~~polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID ND: 2, and~~
8 ~~_____ b) a polynucleotide encoding the pyruvate carboxylase~~
9 ~~polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the clone~~
10 ~~contained in the bacterium deposited under DSM 12893,~~
11 wherein said pyruvate carboxylase is expressed with increased copy
12 numbers compared to an untransformed ~~the starting~~ strain, and
13 producing said L-lysine.

1 Claim 117 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 116, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the
3 nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 165 to 3587 of SEQ ID NO:1.

1 Claim 118 (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 116, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the
3 nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.